

FOREIGN NEWS

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK

ORGANIZATION NOTES

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CERTIFICATED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

WE would like to call the attention of our organized nurses especially to the movement now going on in England, fostered by the Matrons' Council, for laying the foundations of a general union of nurses' organizations. The general plan and purposes are very similar to those of our Associated Alumnae. Local self-governing groups of nurses are to send their delegates to a central national body, which may thus, in time, represent the entire nursing profession, and affiliation with the Matrons' Council is looked for, just as we have affiliated in this country with the Superintendents' Society.

We cannot doubt that this is the strongest possible way in which to organize ourselves if we wish ever to make our united influence felt,—local self-government and independence, friendly co-operation and federation with other local bodies, and international union. Already the British Islands have two groups of over four hundred members each ready to combine,—St. Bartholomew's League, corresponding to our Alumnae Associations, and the Dublin Nurses' Club, corresponding to our general associations. The Constitution of the English National society is given as follows:

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

The name of this association shall be "The National League of Certificated Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland."

ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS.

The objects of the National League shall be:

1. To establish and maintain a Code of Ethics.
2. To elevate the standard of nursing education.
3. To promote the usefulness and honor, the financial and other interests of the nursing profession.

ARTICLE III.—ELIGIBILITY.

Associations of nurses having the following qualifications shall be eligible for affiliation with the National League:

1. Associations composed of graduates of schools of nursing connected with general hospitals of not less than fifty beds, giving three years' full training in the wards of the hospital and certification after examination.
2. Associations composed of graduates of schools of nursing connected with Poor Law infirmaries of not less than two hundred beds, giving three years' full training in the wards of the infirmary and certification after examination, and whose training-schools are recognized by the Local Government Board.
3. Professional associations of nurses, formed for the benefit of nurses, the members of which hold the qualifications of training as defined above.

ARTICLE IV.—MEMBERSHIP.

Membership of the National League shall be confined to trained nurses as defined above, and divided into members, active members, and honorary members. Members shall consist of all members of the affiliated associations. Active members shall consist of delegates duly elected to represent these associations on the Grand Council of the National League, and shall include all honorary officers of the National League. Honorary members shall consist only of nurses who have rendered distinguished service to the nursing profession.

ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

The honorary officers of the National League shall be a president, first and second vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer, who shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

ARTICLE VI.—GOVERNMENT.*Grand Council.*

1. The National League shall be governed by a Grand Council composed of duly appointed delegates from affiliated associations and the honorary officers.

2. Societies affiliated to the National League shall have the right to representation by delegation on the Grand Council as follows: Each association of under a hundred members shall have the right to appoint one delegate; over one hundred, and up to three hundred members, two delegates; and over three hundred members, three delegates, after which there shall be no increase of representation.

3. The Grand Council shall meet annually for the transaction of business, when the honorary officers, who shall form the Executive Committee, shall be elected.

Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the honorary officers. It shall meet from time to time for the transaction of business, and shall report annually to the Grand Council.

ARTICLE VII.—CODE OF ETHICS.

The Code of Ethics of the National League shall be binding upon all members.

ARTICLE VIII.—AMENDMENTS.

No addition or amendment shall be made to the Constitution at an annual meeting unless such addition or amendment be formally proposed and seconded by members of the National League at the said meeting, nor unless notice shall have been given in writing to the secretary of the full text of the proposed resolution by registered letter at least three weeks previously for insertion upon the Agenda of the said meeting. Such addition or amendment must be carried by a majority vote of two-thirds of those present at the meeting.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

THE annual meeting of the governing body of the above school was held last week, Mr. Ball presiding. The annual report showed that fifty-one candidates from the different co-operating hospitals were sent up for examination in general education. Dr. E. McDowell Cosgrave delivered seventeen lectures on anatomy, physiology, and hygiene, and three demonstrations in invalid cookery were given at the National Training-School, Kildare Street. There were one

thousand one hundred and seventy attendances at the lectures. The highest number of marks were gained by Miss Carrothers, of Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital, to whom a silver medal was awarded. Miss Hessian, of the Richmond Hospital, gained the bronze medal.

THE "NURSING RECORD" PEEPS INTO FUTURITY

OUR English contemporary, the *Nursing Record*, has a helpful custom of giving at the end of the year a résumé of nursing history and progress up to date. Its summary for the past year in the issue of December 29 is especially full and valuable for reference, beginning with the reform movements initiated by Mrs. Fry, the Fliedners, St. John's House, and Florence Nightingale, giving all the important data from that time down to the present day, including the movements towards organization, the army nursing agitation, educational advances, and work of special distinction done by individuals, and concluding with a "Peep into Futurity," which we would like to quote in full, did not lack of space forbid more than the following brief extract:

A PEEP INTO FUTURITY.

"What will the new century bring us? May we venture upon a forecast? In the first place, it requires no prophet to tell us that there will be a great consolidation of our forces. The great International Nursing Congress at Buffalo next year, to which many of us are looking forward, cannot fail to impress upon those who take part in it the many interests which nurses of all lands have in common with one another, and to strengthen the bonds of fellowship which already unite us. We believe that the new century will be remarkable for progress in the more efficient education of nurses, and we look forward, first of all, to political enfranchisement for women, because we are becoming increasingly doubtful whether any profession of women, our own included, will make much headway until we have obtained this fundamental basis of freedom.

"And then what vistas open up before us! Our own profession will be re-erected from the ranks of women inspired with a sense of their responsibility to the State and of their duty as law-makers as well as law-keepers. With this power will surely come to nurses the desire for the best form of professional education, and we shall see order arising out of chaos, symmetry evolving from confusion. A minimum curriculum of education will be laid down, and we foresee that the probationer of the future, in common with the aspirants for all other professions, will have to produce evidence of general education from some examining educational body. Then only will she be eligible for preliminary training for her chosen work in the *College of Nursing* which will then exist, not only in dreams, but in solid masonry. Its class-rooms will be hives of busy industry, where sweet-voiced professors of the science of nursing, whose experience has been gained by practical work, will lecture.

"If the embryo probationer succeeds in satisfactorily passing through this preliminary training, then she will pass on to her practical work in the hospital ward. Her examination prior to obtaining its coveted diploma of nursing will also be conducted by examiners appointed by the college, and without this diploma no one will be recognized by the State as a trained nurse. . . . And is it not possible that the College of Nursing will not only be an educational centre to nurses during their undergraduate career, but that classes will also be arranged for graduate nurses, so that they may perfect themselves in the special branches of their profession and so gradually add to their qualifications?"

The article closes with a plea for the extension of normal-school methods in the education of would-be nursing teachers, and the whole ideal, though pitched high, is not more difficult of realization than what has actually been done in the past hundred years.

THE sixty-third yearly report of Kaiserswerth, the venerable mother-house of modern nursing, sent to us by the kindness of Pastor Zoellner, contains a deeply interesting account of the celebration of the one hundredth birthday of Pastor Theodore Fliedner on January 21, just one year ago. Although invitations to the anniversary festival were limited to the deaconess establishments and affiliated institutions founded by Fliedner and to the old friends who were left of his first Sisters and teachers, the memorials were widely alluded to throughout Germany in the press and pulpit, and, best of all, the means necessary to build and maintain a home hospital for the sick and worn-out Sisters were given as a tribute to the labors of these self-denying women. Only one criticism we make as to the reports of the Kaiserswerth work,—little or nothing is ever said as to the part taken by *Mother Fliedner*. When will her biographer arise to do her full honor?

LETTERS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN ITALY

(Continued from January number)

OSPEDALE CLINICO, NAPLES.

Perhaps you will realize what is required of me when I tell you that no nurse is allowed to remain in the four wards unless I am walking the hospital and making myself as ubiquitous as possible. If I go upstairs to lunch or to rest for more than a few minutes, I must collect my flock, no matter what they are doing, and take them with me. . . . The nurses leave the hospital between two and three p.m. and return to their homes. After they are gone I spend the afternoon and evening in writing up all the notes of the day's lecture for them to copy. Though my pupils are fully up to the standard of the average English girl, they are too inexperienced to take down correctly the scientific and technical lectures, and this is better than revising all their written notes would be.

I wrote out at the beginning of the year a programme of the subjects I considered necessary for nurses, copied from my J. H. H. notes. The chief, whose ideas on nursing matters do not differ greatly from those prevalent in English hospitals, agreed with me. The lecturers, however, enlarged a good deal on theory and technicality. In the course of the year they have realized that we need simple facts.

I put my nurses into uniform in February. The material is rough gingham, striped blue and white, with turn-down collars, high white aprons, and hem-stitched half-sleeves. Caps would have been against the ideas of propriety here, and I did not suggest them. With regard to ward work: during the first few months I was obliged, not having any graduates, to leave three out of the four wards to the servants and give my practical lessons in the fourth. After six months' training I was able to put the nurses in charge of the wards, always under my direct surveillance, of course, and the results have been such that the ward doctors are fully persuaded of the value of our institution.

GRACE BAXTER
(Johns Hopkins Hospital).